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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 8 December 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward for your attention the attached report prepared by the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the current humanitarian situation in our country, together with recommendations on those measures which should, in the opinion of our Government, be taken to avoid otherwise grave and inevitable humanitarian consequences (see annex).

We would also like to take this opportunity to recall that while Bosnian Serb and Krajina Serb forces continue to block deliveries of humanitarian convoys intended for the population of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under government control, the deliveries of humanitarian necessities continue unimpeded to those parts under the control of Serb forces.

Such a state of affairs seriously compromises the role of the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and casts a shadow of doubt over neutrality and impartiality, so vigorously insisted upon by the highest representatives of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We sincerely hope that you would consider the gravity of the situation and take urgent and effective measures to prevent any unwanted humanitarian as well as political consequences as a result of that situation.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Report dated 6 December 1994 on the present humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, prepared by the Ministry for Refugees and Social Policy State Committee for Cooperation with the United Nations of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bearing in mind that the humanitarian situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RBH), particularly in the exclusion zones such as Bihać, the city of Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Žepa and Goražde has been very difficult for quite some time, there is a realistic threat that it would become a dire one very soon, with unpredictable consequences for the population in those areas. This is certainly going to happen unless all relevant organizations of the international community take urgent measures in implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993).

From the beginning of this year to 30 October 1994, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) realized its plan related to the needs for survival of the population at a rate of only 33.82 per cent in the territories controlled by the RBH Army, namely, they delivered an average of 193 grams of food per capita. That bad situation deteriorated even further in the last week of November and the beginning of December, when UNHCR delivered to the RBH only 20 per cent of the necessary amount of food.

From 15 May 1994 to 12 December 1994, a total amount of 1,100 tons of food was delivered to the Bihać region, that is some 55 grams of food per capita daily. The situation in this area is already difficult and there is not even the minimum of food stocks. The situation as regards drugs and hygienic items is also alarming.

The latest aggression on this area has brought about the exodus of some 15,000 displaced persons who are presently in Bihać without adequate accommodation.

In the month of November, the humanitarian situation in Sarajevo drastically deteriorated as a result of the suspension of the airlift on 23 November 1994 and the non-use of land corridors for humanitarian convoying to Sarajevo. For instance, in the month of November, 10.14 kilograms of food per person were distributed to the citizens of Sarajevo, of which 9 kilograms of wheat and only 1.14 kilograms of quality food (oil, sugar, tinned meat), which amounts to an average of 338 grams of food daily. The current stocks of food are sufficient for the survival of the population of the city for only five days. The shortage of energy has long jeopardized the production of bread and the population, because of the lack of heating and food, is completely exhausted physically. The RBH Government has provided for certain amounts of food, waiting to be transported somewhere near the city, but despite a number of contacts with the highest UNPROFOR and UNHCR officials, no agreement has been reached concerning the transport of this kind of humanitarian aid.
Mr. Yasushi Akashi's visit last week has brought no results regarding the improvement of the humanitarian situation in Sarajevo, and since 1 November 1994, UNHCR has been able to use the only route leading from the airport to the

city, used for humanitarian aid delivery, exclusively with the aggressor's prior approval. UNPROFOR has yielded this route to the aggressor's side, which is contrary to the agreement on its use.

In the areas of Goražde, Žepa and Srebrenica, the humanitarian situation is critical, the most difficult being in Srebrenica, where 50,000 inhabitants actually represent a large refugee camp. The situation regarding food delivery to Srebrenica is dramatic and only 20 per cent of needs have been met for quite a long time, amounting to 109 grams of food per capita daily. The accommodation of 34,000 of the displaced is still a special problem, 7,000 people being without any accommodation whatsoever.

In order to overcome this critical humanitarian situation in the safe areas the following is proposed:

1. UNPROFOR is called upon to implement United Nations Security Council resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993) regarding safe areas and, in compliance with this, to ensure humanitarian aid delivery to the population in those areas, by force, if necessary.

2. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is requested to implement consistently the decision adopted by the NATO Council on 9 February 1994 regarding the exclusion zones.

3. The United Nations Security Council is requested to pass a resolution by which the humanitarian route Pazarić-Hrasnica-Sarajevo, controlled by the United Nations, crossing the airport runway, would be opened, where UNPROFOR would provide efficient escort to humanitarian convoys as well as the safe delivery of humanitarian aid.

4. The United Nations Secretary-General is requested to ensure the functioning of the airport at Sarajevo as well as of the airport-to-city route, in accordance with the Airport Agreement.

5. UNHCR is requested to supply the occupied territories in western Bosnia exclusively via Karlovac-Bihać route in future, thus making possible the supply of the Bihać region first, and then the supply of the occupied areas of western Bosnia.

6. UNHCR and the countries contributing to the air drop and to airlift operations are requested to start, without any delay, humanitarian aid delivery to Bihać, Srebrenica and Žepa by air drops, as well as to restore the airlift to Sarajevo immediately. It is necessary to carry out these actions until the humanitarian situation is stabilized.

7. Bearing in mind the extremely difficult situation in Sarajevo regarding energy supply, the United Nations is requested to take over control of the gas installations near Sarajevo, namely, to deliver sufficient quantities of butane gas in tanks from which gas bottles could be filled for humanitarian purposes of the citizens of Sarajevo.